

What is claimed is:

1. A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

- 5 a) a message store for storing multimedia messages;
- b) conversion means for converting non-text messages to text; and
- 10 c) summarization means for automatically summarizing text.

2. A multimedia mailbox system according to claim 1

- 15 wherein said summarization means is driven by a list of keywords.

3. A multimedia mailbox system according to claim 1

- 20 wherein said summarization means is driven by a plurality of lists of keywords, each list of keywords being linked to one of a message subject and a message sender.

4. A multimedia mailbox system according to claim 1,  
further comprising:

5 d) filter means for determining high priority messages;  
and

e) automatic means for automatically sending a summary  
of high priority messages to a designated user.

10 5. A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

a) a message store for storing multimedia messages;

15 b) conversion means for converting non-text messages to  
text; and

c) filter means for determining high priority messages.

20 6. A multimedia mailbox system according to claim 5  
further comprising summarization means for automatically  
summarizing text.

25 7. A multimedia mailbox system according to claim 6  
wherein said summarization means is driven by a list of  
keywords.

8. A multimedia mailbox system according to claim 7  
wherein said summarization means is driven by a plurality  
5 of lists of keywords, each list of keywords being linked  
to one of a message subject and a message sender.

9. A multimedia mailbox system according to claim 8  
10 further comprising automatic means for automatically  
sending a summary of high priority messages to a  
designated user.

15 10. A method for managing a multimedia mailbox system,  
comprising the steps of:

a) storing a plurality of multimedia messages in a  
mailbox;

b) converting non-text messages to text; and

c) automatically summarizing text.

25 11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said step of  
automatically summarizing text is keyword driven.

12. A method according to claim 10 wherein said step of automatically summarizing text is keyword driven utilizing a plurality of lists of keywords, each list of keywords being linked to one of a message subject and a message sender.

13. A method according to claim 10 further comprising the steps of:

d) determining which messages have high priority; and

e) automatically sending a summary of high priority messages to a designated user.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said step of determining further comprises the step of filtering to determine message priority.

15. A method for managing a multimedia mailbox system,  
comprising the steps of:

- 5       a) storing a plurality of multimedia messages in a  
          mailbox;
- b) converting non-text messages to text; and
- 10       c) determining which messages have high priority.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein said step of  
determining further comprises the step of filtering to  
15       determine message priority.

17. A method according to claim 15 further comprising the  
step of automatically summarizing text.

20  
  
18. A method according to claim 17 wherein said step of  
automatically summarizing text is keyword driven.

19. A method according to claim 17 wherein said step of  
automatically summarizing text is keyword driven  
utilizing a plurality of lists of keywords, each list of  
5 keywords being linked to one of a message subject and a  
message sender.

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